

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

DAMIEN ELRIC HUGHES,

Defendant.

No.

23-CR-159-J

Counts 1-8:

18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and  
(b)(1)

(Distribution of Child Pornography)

Count 9: 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B), (b)(2)  
(Possession of Child Pornography)

**FORFEITURE NOTICE**

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INDICTMENT

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THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:

**COUNT ONE**

On or about November 3, 2022, in the District of Wyoming, the Defendant, **DAMIEN ELRIC HUGHES**, knowingly distributed child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), using means and facilities of interstate commerce, namely the Internet and cellular telephone networks.

In violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1).

**COUNT TWO**

On or about December 31, 2022, in the District of Wyoming, the Defendant, **DAMIEN ELRIC HUGHES**, knowingly distributed child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), using means and facilities of interstate commerce, namely the Internet and cellular telephone networks.

In violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1).

**COUNT THREE**

On or about January 14, 2023, in the District of Wyoming, the Defendant, **DAMIEN ELRIC HUGHES**, knowingly distributed child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), using means and facilities of interstate commerce, namely the Internet and cellular telephone networks.

In violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1).

**COUNT FOUR**

On or about July 26, 2023, in the District of Wyoming, the Defendant, **DAMIEN ELRIC HUGHES**, knowingly distributed child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), using means and facilities of interstate commerce, namely the Internet and cellular telephone networks.

In violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1).

**COUNT FIVE**

On or about August 13, 2023, in the District of Wyoming, the Defendant, **DAMIEN ELRIC HUGHES**, knowingly distributed child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), using means and facilities of interstate commerce, namely the Internet and cellular telephone networks.

In violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1).

**COUNT SIX**

On or about August 16, 2023, in the District of Wyoming, the Defendant, **DAMIEN ELRIC HUGHES**, knowingly distributed child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), using means and facilities of interstate commerce, namely the Internet and cellular telephone networks.

In violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1).

**COUNT SEVEN**

On or about August 22, 2023, in the District of Wyoming, the Defendant, **DAMIEN ELRIC HUGHES**, knowingly distributed child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), using means and facilities of interstate commerce, namely the Internet and cellular telephone networks.

In violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1).

**COUNT EIGHT**

On or about September 4, 2023, in the District of Wyoming, the Defendant, **DAMIEN ELRIC HUGHES**, knowingly distributed child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), using means and facilities of interstate commerce, namely the Internet and cellular telephone networks.

In violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1).

**COUNT NINE**

Between on or about November 1, 2022, and on or about September 7, 2023, in the District of Wyoming, the Defendant, **DAMIEN ELRIC HUGHES**, did knowingly possess material which contains images of child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8)(A), that involve prepubescent minors, and which were produced using materials that had been mailed, shipped and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, namely, a silver Microsoft laptop computer with serial number 047090193154, not a product of Wyoming, and a custom gaming computer, not a product of Wyoming.

In violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B), (b)(2).

**FORFEITURE NOTICE**

1. The allegations contained in this Indictment are hereby realleged and incorporated by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeitures pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2253.

2. As authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 2253, upon conviction of an offense in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A, the Defendant, **DAMIEN ELRIC HUGHES**, shall forfeit to the United States of America any visual depiction described in 18 U.S.C. § 2252A or any matter which contains any such visual depiction, which was possessed, produced, transported, mailed, shipped or received in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A; and any personal property used or intended to be used to commit and to promote the commission of the offenses.

The property to be forfeited includes, but is not limited to, a silver Microsoft laptop computer with serial number 047090193154, a custom gaming computer, and a black Micro Center flash drive.

A TRUE BILL:

INK SIGNATURE ON FILE  
FOREPERSON



NICHOLAS VASSALLO  
United States Attorney

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**PENALTY SUMMARY**

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**DEFENDANT NAME:** **DAMIEN ELRIC HUGHES**

**DATE:** November 14, 2023

**INTERPRETER NEEDED:** No

**VICTIM(S):** Yes

**OFFENSE/PENALTIES:**

**Counts 1-8: 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1)**  
(Distribution of Child Pornography)

5-20 Years Imprisonment  
Up to \$250,000 Fine  
5 Years to Life Supervised Release  
\$100 Special Assessment  
\$5,000 Special Assessment Pursuant to The Victims of Sex  
Trafficking Act of 2015  
Up to \$35,000 Special Assessment and Mandatory  
Restitution of Not Less Than \$3,000 Per Requesting Victim  
Pursuant to The Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography  
Victim Assistance Act of 2018

**Count 9: 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B), (b)(2)**  
(Possession of Child Pornography)

0-20 Years Imprisonment  
Up to \$250,000 Fine  
5 Years to Life Supervised Release  
\$100 Special Assessment  
\$5,000 Special Assessment Pursuant to The Victims of Sex  
Trafficking Act of 2015  
Up to \$17,000 Special Assessment and Mandatory  
Restitution of Not Less Than \$3,000 Per Requesting Victim  
Pursuant to The Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography  
Victim Assistance Act of 2018

**Penalty Summary**  
November 14, 2023  
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RE: Damien Elric Hughes

<b>TOTALS:</b>	5-180 Years Imprisonment Up to \$2,250,000 Fine 5 Years to Life Supervised Release \$900 Special Assessment \$45,000 Special Assessment Pursuant to The Victims of Sex Trafficking Act of 2015 Up to \$297,000 Special Assessment and Mandatory Restitution of Not Less Than \$3,000 Per Requesting Victim Pursuant to The Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018
<b>AGENT:</b>	Gary Seder, DCI
<b>AUSA:</b>	Christyne M. Martens Assistant United States Attorney
<b>ESTIMATED TIME OF TRIAL:</b>	3 to 5 days
<b>WILL THE GOVERNMENT SEEK DETENTION IN THIS CASE:</b>	Yes
<b>ARE THERE DETAINERS FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS:</b>	Yes. Currently in state custody.